Finn
Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary. I'm Finn…

Alice
And I'm Alice. Today we're looking at a very important part of word building – suffixes.

Finn
Suffixes. We'll look at what they are, what they mean and how to use them.

Alice
There'll be a quiz…

Finn
And we'll leave you with a top tip for learning vocabulary.

Alice
So: to start off, we're going to listen to Andrea and Steve who work in a bank. They have just interviewed two people who want to work there.

Finn
And here's a question to think about while you listen: who did Andrea and Steve like best - the first person or the second person?

Alice
Who did they like best? Let's find out.

Andrea
What do you think then Steve?

Steve
Well, the first one was very excitable: he kept laughing and speaking fast.

Andrea
Perhaps it was just nervousness, but there's no room for that in this business.

Steve
No. Now I thought the second interviewee seemed a bit more responsible.
Andrea
Yes, she did – very important when dealing with money. And she was polite.

Steve
Politeness is essential in this job.

Andrea
Absolutely. Well, I think we both know which one is more employable.

STING

Finn
So, that’s Steve and Andrea. And we asked you: who did they like best?

Alice
And the answer is: they definitely liked the second person best. The second one was polite and responsible. The first one was a bit too excitable.

Finn
That’s right, and excitable is a key word in the show today because it ends in a suffix.

Alice:
Now in the world of vocabulary, a suffix is a group of letters that you can add to the end of a word to change its form, or meaning, or both.

Finn
For example, the word excitable has the suffix -able, spelt a-b-l-e. -able makes verbs into adjectives, and we use –able words to say that a subject can do something – is able to do something - or they behave in a particular way.

Alice
So if we take the verb excite, add the suffix -able, we can say that the first interviewee was excitable, meaning: he can get very excited.

Finn
And the second one was responsible, that’s responsible with –ible, spelt ‘i-b-l-e’. She can be trusted to do the right thing. And that’s why she was more employable, now that’s -able with an a again. Now for another suffix. Andrea and Steve talked about two interviewees. The suffix –ee, spelt e-e, makes a noun which means ‘the person who receives an action’.

Alice
For example, if you add –ee to interview, you get the person who receives an interview, an interviewee.

IDENT
You’re listening to BBC Learning English dot com.
Finn
And we’re talking about suffixes. Our final suffix for today is –ness, spelt n-e-s-s. Adding –ness to an adjective makes a noun.

Alice
That’s right, and interviewee number one suffered from nervousness – the noun form of nervous.

Finn
But number two understood the importance of politeness – the noun form of polite. Is politeness important to you Alice?

Alice
Oh yes Finn, politeness is very important to me.

Finn
I think you’re very polite. Now let’s listen to today’s suffixes and words again.

Alice
The first one was: -able with an a. a-b-l-e.

Finn
excitable, employable

Alice
-ible with an i. i-b-l-e.

Finn
responsible

Alice
-ee: e-e

Finn
interviewee

Alice
-ness: n-e-s-s

Finn
nervousness, politeness
Alice
And it’s time for a quiz. Choose the correct suffix to complete the final words in these 2 sentences. Ready? Number 1. The most important thing to me is my family’s… a) happy-ee
b) happy-able, c) happiness.

Finn
This one is the noun form of happy, so it’s c) happiness.

Alice
Number 2. I’m learning how to do this job. I’m a a) trainee b) trainable, c) train-ness.

Finn
You are receiving training, so you’re a trainee.

Alice
Well done if you got those right.

Finn
And that brings us almost to the end of today’s programme.

Alice
But before we go, here’s today’s top tip for learning vocabulary: if you use an online dictionary, type a hyphen or a dash into the search box, and then type in any of today’s suffixes. The dictionary will give you a list of words that end with your suffix.

Finn
You know, that’s a really good tip: I think I might try that. There’s more about this at BBC learning English dot com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

Both
Good bye!
## Vocabulary points to take away

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suffix</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Example Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-ee</td>
<td>interviewee, trainee, employee, refugee, absentee</td>
<td><em>My company has six thousand employees.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>able</td>
<td>excitable, employable, pleasurable, enjoyable, loveable, readable, breakable, moveable</td>
<td><em>I didn't like his last book – it wasn't very readable.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>-ible</td>
<td>responsible, visible, horrible, terrible</td>
<td><em>Stars are only visible at night.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ness</td>
<td>happiness, nervousness, politeness, sadness, sickness, kindness, meaninglessness</td>
<td><em>He missed two days of work because of sickness.</em></td>
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